

# CREATION

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## Designer Molecules

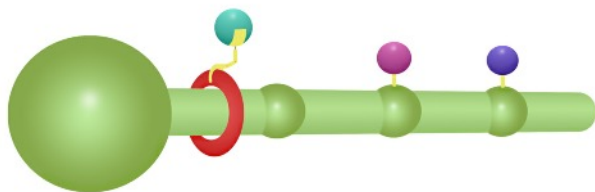
Barely a week seems to go by without another remarkable advance in the expanding field of biomimetics. In the previous issue of the CSM Journal we commented on laminin, a protein with the crucially important role of holding the cells of the body together. Now we take a look at the organelle that builds proteins in the first place - the ribosome.

The ribosome reads instructions received from RNA molecules and builds a chain of amino acids accordingly. The chain then folds into its final shape to become a working protein and is transported to wherever it is needed in the body.

An article on the BBC News website (<http://goo.gl/Eofav>, accessed 10 March) reported on the work of Prof David Leigh

and his colleagues at Manchester University, UK, who are developing a molecular machine that mimics the actions of the ribosome. The machine is only a few millionths of a millimetre in size and is in the form of a ring (a rotaxane) threaded on a rod. Attached to the ring is a “reactive arm” (see diagram). As the ring moves along the rod, the arm picks up amino acid units at intervals and stacks them, building up a peptide chain. Currently however the machine has only been able to assemble chains composed of a few units, far fewer than the many tens of units achieved by the ribosome.

The research team comment on the great precision of their machine, a designer molecule potentially enabling the production of designer compounds for an enormous number of possible uses. And yet its capabilities are eclipsed by the ribosome. As they rightly say, the ribosome is “one of nature’s true marvels.” But with even greater complexity, the ribosomes themselves must have been manufactured many times during the development of a multi-cellular organism from a fertilised egg. The inference is absolutely clear: the ribosome is



Schematic diagram of the ribosome machine. The ring moves along the rod, removing and stacking amino acid units as it goes. Image: CSM.

one of nature's marvels because it had a marvellous Designer.

What then of the genetic code that instructs the ribosome's actions? Far from being an assemblage of largely "junk" DNA, the genome is now recognised as containing multi-level coding of astonishing sophistication.

A fascinating article in *Frontline*, an IT newsletter (see <http://goo.gl/SoEIF>, accessed 10 March) reported on the work of Ajit Narayanan and Yi Chen, anti-malware researchers at the Auckland University of Technology, New Zealand. They point out that whilst malware has proliferated in recent years, and the malware authors have developed increasingly subtle attacks, our ability to fight them off still largely relies on defence strategies developed decades ago. These are signature-based antivirus tools that learn how to spot tell-tale clues in the source code of the malware to detect its presence.

The researchers decided instead to focus on data mining techniques. They considered that these might be used to improve antivirus defences by being able to understand whether a particular programme was likely to be benign or malicious. But there is a problem in applying automatic data mining techniques to malware code directly: the code may be of variable length, whereas most data mining techniques assume fixed length sequences, with a column representing measurements of the same variable across many samples.

How to solve this? The researchers turned to biology for inspiration. They developed a technique to turn malware hexadecimal

signatures into amino acid representations and then used established protein modelling systems to analyse the malware. Tests of the system with the signatures of a range of computer viruses and worms showed that it can be used to create "genetic fingerprints" for the malware with far greater accuracy than is currently possible. The researchers believe that ultimately this will allow them to build an algorithm that can analyse a programme and work out whether it contains malware.

No wonder, then, that our bodies can defeat viruses and other microscopic invaders so effectively. They are obviously remarkably well designed coded systems. So their Designer was...?

## The Benefits of Holes

*Monstera deliciosa* is better known as the Swiss Cheese plant - a popular houseplant with enormous leaves with characteristic large holes, looking as if someone has snipped away at them with a pair of scissors. But why have such holes at all? Recent work utilising mathematical modelling by Christopher Muir, a graduate



Leaf of *Monstera deliciosa* showing the characteristic holes. Image: Ewen and Donabel, Flickr, under Creative Commons Attribution 2.0 Generic licence.

student at Indiana University, USA, suggests a very good reason (see <http://goo.gl/qxlhd>, accessed 12 March).

In the wild, these plants grow in the dark understorey of tropical rainforests. In such conditions, the rare beams of sunlight that manage to penetrate down through the forest assume greater significance for the plant's photosynthetic requirements. Consequently it's important to the plant to have as large a "spread" as possible for a given area of leaf tissue in order to maximise the chances of finding a sunbeam. Even allowing for the possibility of some of the light passing straight through, having these holes optimises the plant's chances, as the same leaf area without any holes wouldn't spread so far and might in consequence miss the location of the sunbeam entirely. Thus for the same effort in manufacturing leaf tissue, the Swiss Cheese plant has a better "return" on its investment and thereby reduces its stresses as compared with a plant that does not have hole-bearing leaves.

But there is a further aspect to this story. *Monstera deliciosa* is rare amongst plants in having the habit of growing differently at different stages of its lifecycle. It is an epiphyte, having aerial roots that attach to host trees, enabling it to climb as it grows. But young plants are closer to the forest floor, where fewer flecks of sunlight reach. These young plants do not produce leaves with holes; instead they produce small leaves that are held close to the host tree's trunk. Mr Muir's mathematical models predict that the quality of light in such circumstances is so poor that there is no benefit in producing large hole-bearing leaves. Only when the plant has grown and risen closer to the light does it produce the

characteristic large leaves, with holes, that are held away from the trunk of the host tree.

So what does this tell us? Is this an example of Evolution in action? Hardly. If having varying growth habits, and hole-bearing leaves, gives this plant such a survival advantage, then why haven't many more plants adopted the same strategy? Rather, the Swiss Cheese plant is a splendid example of design. It looks as it does because its Creator designed it that way, to fill that particular niche, whereas He designed other plants differently. As the Bible says: "How many are your works O Lord! In wisdom you made them all" (Psalm 104: 24).

## The Charge of the Bumblebee

In previous issues of the CSM Journal we have reported on new discoveries about even such supposedly well-known creatures as honeybees. Now it seems that their cousins the bumblebees have a trick or two to teach us as well. An article on the BBC Nature website (<http://goo.gl/ZzuqG>, accessed 15 March 2013) reported on the work of Prof Daniel Robert of the University of Bristol, UK, and his colleagues. They have made the amazing discovery that the bumblebee *Bombus terrestris* can detect electrical charge in flowers. Hence the bumblebee's visits to flowers are based not only on its perceptions of bright colours, patterns and fragrances, but also on electrostatic information.

And the latter could be particularly important. How does a bumblebee judge when a flower that appears to be enticing



The electrostatically charged *Bombus terrestris* bumblebee - a positive experience for flowers. Image: Whitney Cranshaw, Colorado State University, Bugwood.org, under Creative Commons Attribution-Noncommercial 3.0 Licence.

actually has nectar to be foraged, as opposed to one that looks identical but where the nectar has already been supped by other insects? The answer could be that the flower's liquid assets are indicated by its electrostatic charge.

Furthermore, the bumblebee has an electrostatic charge itself. When in flight, a bumblebee builds up positive charge, whereas flowers have a negative charge. Does a bumblebee that has emptied a flower of nectar leave its "calling-card" in the form of neutralising the flower's charge? These accumulations and dissipations of charge may also help to explain how pollen "knows" when to hitch a ride on a bumblebee and when to get off.

Prof Robert commented, "...this is the tip of the iceberg, there's so much more that we haven't seen yet." Quite so. Subtle indeed are the ways of the Lord.

## Dating not Allowed

Creationists are often accused of being out-of-touch "flat-earthers" who dress up

religion as science, whereas evolutionists are portrayed as being modern, intelligent and wholly scientific in their viewpoints. But is this true? What happens when creationists present straightforward scientific results which evolutionists don't like because of their implications? If the evolutionists are indeed adhering to scientific principles by following the truth wherever it leads, then they should of course give the results fair hearing and fair publicity... but do they?

CSM would like to draw attention to a very serious recent example of alleged discrimination against scientists who presented solid scientific evidence that called evolutionary assumptions into question. It concerns the age of dinosaur bones.

The scientists presented their findings at the 2012 Western Pacific Geophysics Meeting



Carbon-14 has a half-life of only 5,730 years, yet it has now been found in the bones of a number of different dinosaur fossils - conclusive evidence that the age of these creatures must be reckoned in only thousands of years. If they were as old as the many millions of years that evolutionists claim, then the carbon-14 should long ago have dwindled to almost nothing. Image: CSM.

in Singapore, 13-17 August, a conference of the American Geophysical Union (AGU) and the Asia Oceania Geosciences Society (AOGS). Details of their findings and the allegations are given at <http://newgeology.us/presentation48.html> where it is stated:

“Researchers have found a reason for the puzzling survival of soft tissue and collagen in dinosaur bones – the bones are younger than anyone ever guessed. Carbon-14 (C-14) dating of multiple samples of bone from 8 dinosaurs from Texas, Alaska, Colorado, and Montana revealed that they are only 22,000 to 39,000 years old. Since dinosaurs are thought to be over 65 million years old, the news is stunning. And more than some can tolerate. After the AOGS-AGU conference in Singapore, the abstract was removed from the conference website by two chairmen because they could not accept the findings. Unwilling to challenge the data openly, they erased the report from public view without a word to the authors or even to the AOGS officers, until after an investigation. It won't be restored.”

Readers may recall the documentary produced several years ago by Ben Stein which documented a number of instances of prejudice against creationist scientists in the USA. (A DVD of this, entitled *Expelled - No Intelligence Allowed*, is available from CSM.)

Clearly, no matter how much evolutionists may like to portray themselves as “reasonable”, “scientific” and “open-minded”, the actions of some of them speak a very different story - of rigid adherence to a secularist paradigm despite the abundant conflicting evidence. But God is not mocked. See Galatians 6: 7-10 for details.

## Hawking a Theory

The BBC Nature website has reported briefly (<http://goo.gl/1nCAI>, accessed 30 March 2013) on the extraordinary capabilities of two species of falcons, the peregrine and the saker.

Scientists from Cardiff University, Wales, have pointed out that the hunting lifestyle of these birds involves extreme rigours, such as the pressure of impacting their prey at speeds of up to 300km per hour. The birds have unusually hard skulls to allow them to survive these collisions, and highly efficient circulatory and respiratory systems to cope with the extreme air pressure encountered during their high-speed dives. The specialized hook-tip shape of the beak is also essential to their flesh-eating habits.

The researchers have pinpointed the genes responsible for these various features and have noted their commonality to peregrines and saker falcons. Needless to say, the BBC article promotes an evolutionary slant



The saker falcon, a specialist high-speed predator.  
Image: S. Middell, RGB Stock.

to these findings, claiming that the falcons evolved rapidly and stating, “these birds of prey have been subjected to fierce competition and pressures, leading them to adapt quickly in order to survive”.

But is this the best explanation for these findings? Evolution is supposed to occur very gradually, over immense periods of time. Even should it be comparatively “rapid”, how long would it take for a bird species to “evolve” the necessary features without suffering broken skulls from overly rapid flight or starvation from insufficiently rapid flight in the meantime? Surely the obvious answer is that the birds were designed from the outset with the capabilities to enable them to survive in this way in a fallen world. But this wholly reasonable answer is wholly unpalatable to the secularist mindset.

## Evolution... Missing

Here is a telling quote from *Small Things Considered*, a blog about microorganisms:

“A recent study reported the presence of unusually long-chain polyamines in the oldest known fossil diatoms, which go back to some 100 million years ago. Using some advanced mass spectrometry (MS) analytic techniques called HPLC-ESI-MS and HPLC-QToa-TOF-MS, the authors demonstrated that the diatom fossils contain a large number of polyamines ranging in chain length from 12 to 52 carbons. The authors propose that these molecules were preserved by encapsulation as the glassy shells of the diatoms were formed. Amazingly, the fossils’ polyamines have the same structure as those formed by modern diatoms, thus,

they were able to withstand the pass of time and are preserved intact.”  
(E. Schaechter, <http://goo.gl/bmd73>, 14 March 2013)

Hmm... as the polyamines of these fossils have the **same structure** as modern diatoms, then 100 million years of supposed evolution is... where exactly?

It is remarkable how often one comes across similar situations - where much of the supposed evolution of an organism has already occurred, out of sight and off the record, so that by the time researchers come across a supposedly ancient fossil it is strangely rather similar to modern-day creatures. Somehow all this supposed evolution occurred rather rapidly long, long ago - in a galaxy far, far away? It sounds much more like science fiction than fact.

A similarly suspicious example of unseen evolution occurs in a report by the BBC News website (<http://goo.gl/896rU>, accessed 31 March 2013) about the discovery of a fossil acorn worm called *Spartobranchus tenuis*. Previously unknown to science, it was discovered in rocks from the Burgess Shale of the so-called Cambrian period, supposedly 545 to 495 million years old. Yet what does this “ancient worm” look like? Pretty much the same as modern-day acorn worms. Dr Christopher Cameron from the University of Montreal, Canada, is quoted as saying, “It’s astonishing how similar *Spartobranchus tenuis* fossils are to modern acorn worms, except that they also formed fibrous tubes”. So practically all of its presumed evolution from the first living cell must have occurred - extraordinarily quickly in terms of geological timescales - prior to the Cambrian period. And since





Preserved specimen of a modern-day acorn worm. Image: Necrophorus, Wikipedia, under Creative Commons Attribution-Share Alike 3.0 Unported licence.

then, for around half a billion years, it has hardly changed. Oh yes?

## Something to Digest

Henry Dimbleby is a writer for *Cook* magazine in the *Guardian* newspaper. He is also a physicist and an atheist. In the issue for 30<sup>th</sup> March 2013 he takes a couple of entirely unnecessary and uncomplimentary swipes at creationists but then, unbelievably, finds himself admitting something whereby he effectively shoots himself in the foot. This is what he says:

‘Consider the date. “What have the dates ever done for us?” you may ask. Well, a lot as it turns out. They are nature’s own little energy gels. It is only when driving about in a desert for a while that the pure genius of the date fully manifests itself. For quite long periods it’s all: desert, desert, desert. Then - BOOM! - oasis.

And in the middle of the oasis, a tree that turns a tiny amount of water and a lot of sun into dense bundles of energy (not to mention calcium, sulphur, iron, potassium, phosphorous, manganese, copper, magnesium and lots of fibre). Not only that, but they can be put in a bag slung over the side of a camel and kept indefinitely for long journeys.’

Sounds rather as if they were - no, surely not! - designed.

## Cuttings & Comments from **New Scientist** by *Dr David Rosevear*

### 5 January 2013 p.9 – After death, your stem cells could still save lives

Stem cells are found in embryos immediately after conception. They divide and reproduce until there are lots of them, and then change to become more specialised cells as they take their place as limbs and organs, etc. in the growing person. Injected into an adult, these stem cells replace damaged tissue with the appropriate kind of cell. Moreover, stem cells are not rejected by the immune system like all other non-self, invasive tissue. The ethical problem is that in order to use embryonic stem cells (ESCs) a potential person must be forfeited.

However, bone marrow also contains stem cells (MSCs), and these could be used without sacrificing a potential human. Here the difficulty is in harvesting enough of them from a living donor for use in a course of treatment.

After death, a corpse’s MSCs remain viable for some five days, being sheltered by the bones in a place of low oxygen levels and cool temperatures. A whole spine yields very many MSCs that can be removed from

their former owner and multiplied by growth in a culture in a petri dish. Billions of the valuable stem cells are then available to treat needy patients.

This research is being carried out in Miami, Florida.

What a marvellous system this is, where multi-purpose cells can differentiate into skin, toe-nail, nerve, retina and any type of body cell. As David wrote in awe and wonder, ‘I will praise Thee; for I am fearfully and wonderfully made: marvellous are thy works; and that my soul knows right well.’ How risible is the evolutionary alternative!

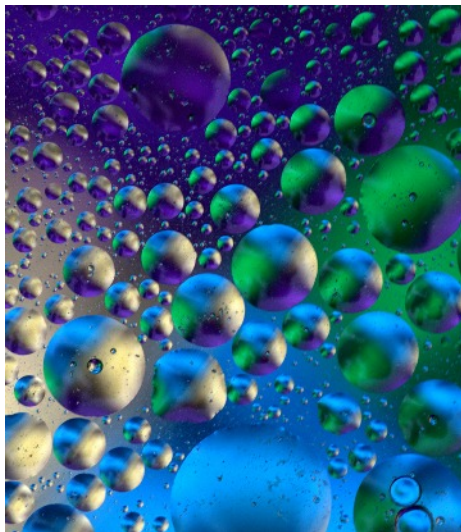
## 12 January p.6 – Fat: the origins of dividing cells

**“The ability of life to make copies of itself may have started with bubbles of fat splitting in a pond.”**

Life is supposed to have started in its simplest form, that is, with a single cell. But then it was necessary to progress by duplicating itself, splitting up to make two cells, and so on. Here, the committee for clutching at straws see a parallel with the way globules of fat floating on water can absorb simple fatty acids, swell and divide.

**“It began when something fell apart. Somewhere on Earth, over 3.5 billion years ago, a bubble of fat may have spontaneously broken into smaller ones, giving rise to one of life’s most fundamental properties - the ability to make copies of itself.”**

In other words, it happened long ago and somewhere else. Leave aside that even mineral oil probably has an animal origin; we now know that when living cells divide they are bound together by a cross-shaped structure known as laminin, as illustrated on the front page of our February *Creation* journal. Far from being analogous to a blob of fat, a living cell is replete with genetic



Life from an oily globule - a fatuous explanation? Living cells are chock-full of molecular machinery essential for existence, maintenance and reproduction. There's far more to them than a mere fatty bubble! Image: K. V. Hansen, RGB Stock.

instructions, as well as proteins and a host of other indispensable bio-molecules.

## 12 January p.30 – The other you

**“The microbes living inside us don’t just play a vital role in our health – they also shape our evolution, says Carrie Arnold”** [an American free-lance writer].

I just wanted to offer this telling quote from p.33: **“While natural selection explains how species change over time, accounting for how new species arise in the first place has proved rather trickier. Darwin’s *On the Origin of Species* actually said nothing at all about the origin of species.”**

Sexual reproduction allows species to exhibit variation by using alleles, variations on genes that can substitute for one another. However, evolution would require the formation of entirely novel genes with different genetic information, and this cannot happen by chance.



### **19 January p.13 – Largest structure defies smooth cosmic theory**

Einstein said that on large scales, the cosmos looks the same in every direction. This idea has been challenged by the discovery of a column of galaxies 4 billion light years long. Previously, the largest known structure in the universe was one billion light years across. The Creator isn't bound by our cosmological principles.

### **26 January p.27 – One minute with... Harry Kroto**

**“We must find a way to rescue the Royal Institution from having to sell its historic London home, says the Nobel laureate”** in this *NS* interview.

The RI, the central point for the UK public understanding of science and a shrine to electricity, the lifeblood of the modern world, should be a world heritage site, according to Kroto. Sadly, **“the problem has arisen partly because the RI got into significant debt... As far as I can see we don't have a lot of time; it looks as though the plug is being pulled.”**

The Institution and its laboratory used for the series of BBC Christmas lectures, was made famous by the researches of Michael Faraday with his discovery of the science of electromagnetism. Kroto fails to mention that the fundamentalist Christian, Faraday, was a six-day creationist!

In 2008 Dr Michael Reiss, while Director of Education at the RI, said publicly that if a school child were to raise the question of creationism in a science lesson, the teacher should treat the subject seriously and give a respectful answer. This caused a furore, and Harry Kroto was at the forefront of those demanding that Reiss be dismissed from his post. Prof. Dawkins likened the Rev. Prof. Michael Reiss' position at the RI as being like a Monty Python sketch. It is to be regretted that Michael resigned.

### **26 January p.33 – Letters: G.O.D.**

**I propose that while there is uncertainty regarding the beginning of the universe (1 December 2012, p.32) the debate about it should be called the Great Origin Dilemma. John Young.**

### **2 February p.15 – By the light of the silvery... Milky Way**

Although dung beetles have been shown to use polarised light from the moon to help them move in a straight line, they can also stay on course on moonless nights.

Now beetles at Lund University, Sweden, have been timed moving from the centre of an open cylinder to the edge. **“On a moonless night, the insects took twice as long as they did under a full moon. And with a cap that hid the night sky from view, they needed six times longer, implying that the stars were involved.”**

Using a planetarium where stars can be switched on and off, it became clear that the beetles were using the Milky Way to navigate. Although their eyes cannot make out individual stars, they can recognise the



Characteristic ball-rolling behaviour of a dung beetle.  
Image: Amy Elise, Flickr, under Creative Commons Attribution 2.0 Generic licence.

broad band of light from the edge-on view of our galaxy.

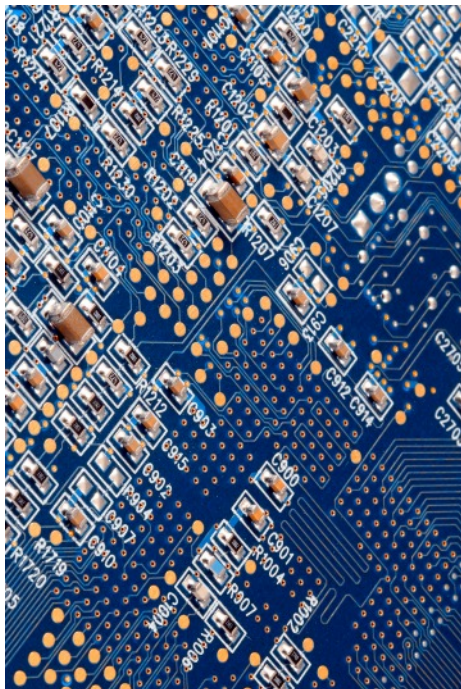
So the efficient transport of dung balls is guided by the stars! Not everybody knows that.

### **9 February p.35 Elements of thought**

This cover story is concerned with a new theory that discusses brain activity in terms of an area of mathematics known as Bayesian statistics. The article concludes that this is not the final word in our understanding of the brain and of consciousness.

We are given here some mind-blowing facts. Our brains have some 86 billion neurons and  $10^{14}$  synapses (junctions of nerve cells). There are 170,000 kilometres of nerve fibres, enough if unravelled to wrap four times around the globe. Cells are connected by nerves to all other cells by the shortest possible distance to maximise intelligence. This is accomplished using twelve hyper-connected hubs that help direct the flow of impulses. This cuts out the need for most long-distance direct nerve connections – just those between these hubs. Although traffic must move rapidly, too much activity would cause a seizure, so the brain is kept at a critical state just below the danger level.

It is known from studies of people with brain damage that the region known as the cerebral cortex is crucial for conscious experiences. By contrast, the cerebellum is not necessary to conscious awareness. The theory shows that while the cerebral cortex has less than half of the number of neurons as those in the cerebellum, those in the former are better connected to one another. They can hold large amounts of information and also integrate it to form a single coherent picture. When we sleep, this traffic slows down.



Far more complex than the intelligently designed circuits of a computer, the brain came into existence - just by chance? Image: N. Raymond, RGB Stock.

It is hard to imagine how this lot could somehow evolve by chance mutations selected by experience. My head hurts!

### **16 February p.14 – Mammal ancestor lived a dino-free life**

Some palaeontologists, as in this article, think that dinosaurs became extinct before the first mammal ancestors appeared and evolved into, among others, man. Other experts say that dinosaurs and early mammals walked together. God told Job this concerning behemoth and man (chapter 40, v 15).

**“An analysis combining genomic data and fossil evidence suggests that the ancestor of all mammals that nurture their young in the womb would have lived soon after the asteroid impact that**

wiped out the dinosaurs 66 million years ago. Its descendants spread around the globe, diversifying into all the placental groups seen today, from bats to whales and from mice to men.”

This statement is, of course, an interpretation based upon a faith position. Both genetic data and fossil evidence show all kinds of animals are distinct. Links are all missing. Genes cannot form by chance, and mutations corrupt their information. Half-formed feathers, wings and flukes are unknown in the fossil record. Were they to be somehow accidentally formed, then natural selection would delete them as unfit. Bats are not flying mice, despite Rossini’s delightful opera. Notice that ‘asteroid impact’ and ‘66 million years’ are stated as facts, certainly not as inferences based upon assumptions. According to Maureen O’Leary of New York, Stony Brook this first ancestor was **“cute, furry, long-tailed and with a predilection for insects”**. But is her idea without value - stony broke? Molecular biologist Mark Springer of California, Riverside thinks so. His own genetic analysis concludes that dinosaurs and mammals co-existed. **“The tree based on morphology...is in striking disagreement with the molecular tree.”** ‘Striking disagreement’!

I read somewhere that beasts, cattle and creeping things (reptiles) were all made on the sixth day of the universe. They were each made ‘according to their kind’ and ‘God saw that it was good’.

**23 February p.16 – English language map of the brain**



The description of behemoth in the book of Job sounds very like a long-necked sauropod, such as this *Apatosaurus*. Image: Wikipedia, in the public domain.

Scientists in San Francisco have implanted electrodes into the brains of three people to treat epilepsy. They looked at the patterns of firing neurons as the patients spoke.

**“The brain has such fine control over the muscles used to speak that every sound produces a different pattern of neural activity...The sets of neurons that control movement of the tongue, lips and vocal chords fired in different combinations as the volunteers pronounced each sound.”**

They produced a ‘map of language’, and found that regions of neurons for pronouncing consonants are far from that for vowels. (We never mistake a vowel for a consonant.) Our brains put all this together so that we can communicate orally. It beggars belief that the grunts and squeals of apes could ever evolve into such a brain.

**2 March p.37 – Special Issue, Physics, what’s next?**

This includes **p.40 to 44, The dark side.** **“Our established picture of the universe is supremely successful – maybe because most of it is made up.”**

We think that stars define the universe, but cosmologists see them as just the dusting of

glitter on the true face of space. **“Far outweighing ordinary stars and gas are two elusive entities: dark matter and dark energy. We don’t know what they are... except that they appear to be almost everything... Our standard cosmology also says that space was stretched into shape just a split second after the big bang by a third dark and unknown entity called the inflation field. That might imply the existence of a multiverse of countless other universes hidden from our view, most of them unimaginably alien – just to make a model of our universe work.”**



The existence of spiral galaxies such as the so-called Pinwheel Galaxy is extremely difficult to explain within evolutionary theories of the origin of the universe. Image: European Space Agency & NASA, under Creative Commons Attribution 3 unported licence.

Astronomers in the 1970s found that galaxies are spinning too fast, so that over billions of years they would fall apart. There must be a lot of invisible extra matter to provide the gravitational glue to hold everything in place over the imagined aeons. Dark matter is also seen as needed to pull galaxies together to start with.

In the 1990s cosmologists found that the universe is expanding at an accelerating rate. Some mysterious repulsive force, dark energy, is overcoming the gravitational force of attraction of regular matter.

Today’s extraordinary cosmology has invented a third dark force, inflation field, because they say that when the universe was only  $10^{-36}$  seconds old an overwhelming force took over. This flattened space and smoothed out any irregularities in its structure. When this inflationary period ended, the field transformed itself, oh my best beloved, into regular matter and radiation. Trouble is we don’t know where these three dark items came from. Moreover inflation is tricky, in theory, to stop. It should go on to create a multiverse, rather like the sorcerer’s apprentice. **“Our lack of answers gives us**

**a sense not of desperation, but of inspiration.”** As the *NS* Editor comments (Bang goes the theory, p.3) **“The past few years have been a boom time for theoretical physicists. With few experiments to constrain them, they have been free to explore... Yet our understanding of the universe is stuck in a bit of a rut. Even the Higgs boson”** has proved disappointing.

### **9 March p.32 – Resurrection man**

It seems it is not just your stem cells that survive death (see 5<sup>th</sup> January above). Here is an interview with Sam Parnia, a resuscitation expert at Stony Brook University Medical Centre. He has used specialist equipment and drugs to bring people back from being dead for up to eight hours, after which brain cell damage becomes irreversible. After cardiac arrest, he can pass a person’s blood through a membrane oxygenator that removes carbon dioxide as well as supplying oxygen, then pumping it back into their body. The patient must also be on a chest compression machine and have certain drugs drip fed



while being cooled to slow the damaging processes. The treatment is not available in the US and UK.

Dr Parnia was asked whether people who claim to have had NDEs, near death experiences, have merely hallucinated. He said that a dead brain cannot hallucinate. They have **“gone into the afterlife”** and when resuscitated, return together with their consciousness and personality. **“Most come back and have no fear of death, and are transformed in a positive way – becoming more altruistic. As a scientific community we have tried to explain these away, but we haven’t been successful...”**

**“The question is, what happens to human consciousness – the thing that makes me into who I am – when my heart stops beating and I die? From our external view, it looks like it simply disappears. But it sort of hibernates, in the same way as it does when you are given a general anaesthetic. And it comes back. I don’t believe that your consciousness is annihilated when you reach the point of death. How far does it continue? I don’t know. But I do know that at least in the period of time in which we can bring people back to life that entity of the human mind has not been annihilated.”**

This important work is the closest scientific research has come to showing that there is a resurrection into eternity. Stem cells and brain cells, being corruptible flesh, will die. But since consciousness is immaterial, the soul goes marching on.

This treatment also supports the biblical principle that the life is in the blood (Lev. 17:14).

## **16 March p.16 – Are breast milk stem cells the real deal?**

**“Proteins, carbohydrates and vitamins are all on the menu for a breastfed baby. Now it seems you can add stem cells to that list.**

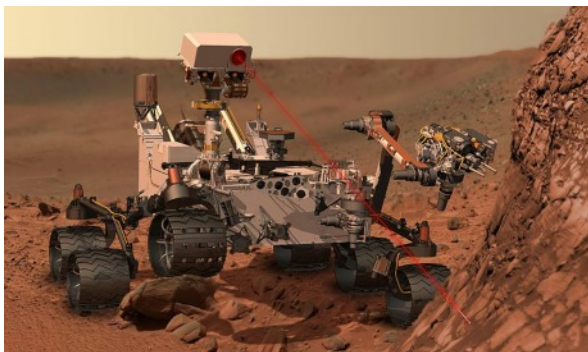
**“That means we will soon have access to a source of stem cells without destroying embryos [i.e. taking life.] This would be a boon as stem cells can turn into any type of human tissue, making them useful for treating degenerative diseases like Alzheimer’s or regrowing damaged heart muscle...”**

**“But she thinks that breastfed infants could be getting a developmental head start, with stem cells from the mother contributing to organ development in the newborn.”**

Moreover, breast milk stem cells don’t form a type of tumour called a teratoma – a further advantage

## **23 March p.8 – Rover finds hint of life’s cradle on Mars**

Rover has scooped up some ground on Mars and analysed it. It is clay plus many types of hydrated minerals which form in the presence of water. It is thought that the

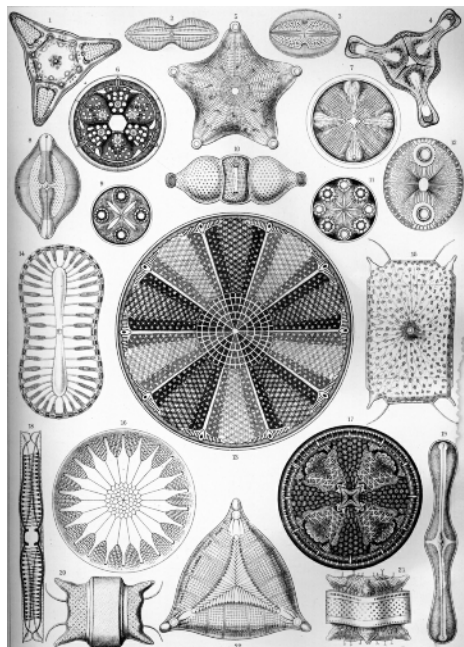


Artist's depiction of the Mars rover *Curiosity*. None of the ground samples taken has shown even the slightest evidence of life. Image: NASA/JPL-Caltech, in the public domain.

water was pH neutral, neither too acidic nor alkaline. There were substances capable of supplying microbes with energy. But still no life! Water is necessary for life, but so is genetic information.

**“The hope is that Mars can help us understand the origins of life – even if the planet’s early transformation into a cold, dry, hostile world meant life never got started there.”** Can one understand life’s origins from looking at a place where it never got started?

**“And even if no hints of microbes can be found, Mar’s habitable regions could still serve as snapshots of a prebiotic world frozen in time.”** Their use of the word ‘prebiotic’ is not just the absence of life, but the expectation that life will somehow still form spontaneously. This is not science; it is nonsense.



Diatoms as depicted by Ernst Haeckel. Earth has an abundance of microorganisms, yet none are known from our nearest planetary neighbour. It looks like the existence of life on Earth was deliberately designed. Image in the public domain.

### 23 March p.17 – Not dead! The abyss is a bacterial zoo

Unlike the planet Mars, microbes thrive in the most out-of-the-way places on Earth. The Danes have sent autonomous sensors and sample collectors into the Mariana trench in the western Pacific. Every cubic centimetre of mud they brought back contained, on average, 10 million very active microbes. It is thought that detritus falling from the ocean gets funnelled into the trench and feeds the bugs.

Nehemiah 9:6 tells us:

‘You, even You, are Lord alone; You have made heaven, the heaven of heavens, with all their host, the earth, and all things that are therein, **the seas, and all that is therein**, and You preserve them all; and the host of heaven worship You.’ And that includes those microbes!

### 30 March p.30 – Stupid is as stupid does

There wasn’t much to comment on in this issue, but this article was interesting.

**“If being smart is such an overwhelming advantage, for instance, why aren’t we all uniformly intelligent?”** Maybe intelligence didn’t evolve - naturally selected because it offers an advantage. There may be some genetic content in braininess, but nurture (health, upbringing, diet etc.) is also involved.

**“You really can be highly intelligent, and at the same time very stupid.”** Yes, we’ve all met them. But this article gives as an example **“brilliant physicists who insist that climate change is a hoax.”** It makes a change from citing creationists.

As with the body, so with the brain, it builds up a burden of mutations over the generations. These are said to slow the intellect. **“In fact he** (Gerald Crabtree of Stanford University in California) **says, someone plucked from 1000 BC and placed in modern society, would be**



**‘among the brightest and most intellectually alive of our colleagues and companions’. (*Trends in Genetics*, vol 29, p 1)”** This is devolution, the opposite of evolution.

It was reported that **“functional stupidity was a direct contributor to the financial crisis. ‘These people were incredibly smart. They all knew that there were problems with mortgage-backed securities and structured commodities.’ But not only was it no one’s problem to look at them; the employees faced discipline if they raised their concerns... The result is that potentially brilliant employees left logic at the office door.”**

If only those incredibly smart employees had heeded Job 28:28, that tells us that the fear of the LORD is wisdom, and to depart from evil is understanding.

## Dr Duane Gish Welcomed Home

Dr Duane Gish, acknowledged by friend and foe alike as an unbeatable debater against evolution theory, passed away in March, aged 92 years. Until well into his eighties, Dr Gish was Vice President of the Institute for Creation Research, travelling the world to do verbal battle with leading scientists. Duane was a valued friend of CSM, writing pamphlets and debating and speaking at our invitation around the UK.

In September 1987, when CSM’s David Rosevear was booked to debate Professor Halstead and Chris Stringer, Duane flew in for the weekend at short notice. On hearing of this, Halstead booked himself in to a private hospital for a minor operation. (He had been trounced by Dr Gish in a previous debate.) The debate went ahead with a



member of APE, the Association for the Protection of Evolution, helping Dr Stringer. As usual, Dr Gish’s encyclopaedic knowledge and skill won the day.

In October 1993, Dr Gish, with his wife Lolly, undertook a speaking tour arranged by CSM, where he was heard by over 4,000 people during two weeks. In July 1997, we took Duane and Lolly on a Scottish tour based on Kilvarock Castle near Inverness, the seat of the then CSM President Baroness Rose. Although they spent their lives touring the world, they said that this was their “best-ever trip”.

We later renewed our friendship when David, Joan and Ross were invited to ICR in California in May 1999, doing lectures and staying part of the time in the Gish home. Then in March 2000, we were all guests of the Russian Academy of Education in Moscow, enjoying a game of snowballs between the serious stuff.

Dear Lolly went to be with the Lord in 2002, and Duane married another old friend of CSM, Lolly Bliss, the widow of ICR's Dr Richard Bliss. We give thanks for the life of Duane, whose books have been such useful resources, and extend our deep sympathy to Lolly. He is now with Christ whose cause as our Creator he championed with such distinction.

## Comments

“Although I am now well into my 80's, with no scientific background, I still find all the information I receive from you extremely interesting and a constant source of awe and wonder at our great Creator and a solid base for Bible reading. Thank you so much.”  
*P.M., Havant, UK*

## CSM on Facebook

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# Creation Science Movement

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